



## WAR INFLUENCES FASHIONS.

Bab Declares That When Nations Are Hostile Red is the Rage.

## COLORS EFFECT ON WOMEN OF FASHION

Seventy-Five Distinct Tints of Purple—Is Dark Blue Depressing?—Green Means Hope, and White is for Coquette.

New York, April 23, 1897. It would seem as if the very air itself were filled with the possibility of war. Great and little nations are squabbling among themselves, and poet-lovers are all wondering who will imitate Byron and go to fight for Greece. In the meantime, nearly all the spring hats are red. You wonder at my jumping from a subject of vital importance to a mere question of fashion; but, if you will take the trouble, as I did, to study up the history of colors, you will find that there was never a time when war raged that red was not in vogue. I am told that during the Civil War in our own country red bodices were very fashionable. They called them Garibaldi's. Who does not remember the red liberty cap of the Terror? During

love without fear, and it suggests unbounded faith. Can you imagine a woman who doubted the love of her husband putting on a pink gown to tell him of her suspicion?

## MEANING OF COLORS.

We all laugh at that character on the stage known as "the woman with a past," and the critics count themselves as very witty when they jeer at her for wearing a black gown. But that black gown is just as certainly the expression of her wretchedness as the all-white one is symbolical of the happiness of a young bride. But, oddly enough, neither white nor black express anything until they are assumed by a woman. The woman triumphs over the colors without color. It was Balzac who said that a woman's character unconsciously found expression in the colors that she fancied. He thought a woman who wore yellow or green would be quarrelsome. She who put on black without cause was not to be trusted. The wearer of white should be a coquette. To the woman who was unhappy he dedicated pearl-gray. And lavender, he thought, should be worn by a woman on her daughter's wedding day. But Balzac did not, at least to my way of thinking, discover all the subtlety that exists in the heliotrope tints; and neither did he find out how colors influence women and nations. How their influence is as strong as the pressure brought to bear by the mysterious waves of thought that control the entire world at one time. Those waves of thought that have their birth nobody knows where; that roll from

entirely of Irish use and manufacture, and made in Dublin not later than 1799. The third chest had all sorts of small pieces of silver—those famous pistol-handled knives of the time of George II, spoons to suit each course, with the rat-tail handles, to end of forks of the early English period, five apostles' spoons of 1661, and one apostle spoon of 1625.

## COLLECTING ODD SILVER.

It is possible that you are not as much interested in odd silver as I am. To my advice, then, and do not permit yourself to yield to the desire for possessing these dear old spoons that were made by hand, and about which many a romance can be woven. Then, too, if your father is collecting odd silver, you will find yourself the not thoroughly happy possessor of spoons, or forks, or watches that are undated. You may feel in your bones that they were made in the early part of the sixteenth century, but in absolute contradiction to your bones, your common sense will tell you that they were probably made in this country, and are merely clever imitation. This is one of the sorrows of a collector. Another is that if you go to a bric-a-brac auction, you permit your angry passions to arise, and you will bid against your most intimate friend, hating her intensely for the time being, for an apostle spoon, which you can duplicate six times. The regularity of the silver collector is that she not only wants a spoon or small piece of each period, but that she objects to anybody else having a duplicate. The collector is very much of a dog in the manger; but she pays more for her hat than the dog ever did for his. Then, too, women never really seem to entirely grasp the value of certain marks, and no woman likes to go chasing around to dingy old shops, or equally dingy auction rooms, carrying a book on silver marks that will prove that the auctioneer is a little easy as far as truth-telling goes.

## AT AUCTIONS.

I suppose it would be impossible to be absolutely truthful and an auctioneer at the same time. I have never quite understood why I can't get some of the wonderful bargains that other women tell about. I have never even had an opportunity to bid on a Dresden china tea set worth two hundred and fifty dollars, but goes for ten—that's always the other woman's luck. Perhaps going to auctions has the same effect on the buyers that selling the goods does on the auctioneer. It makes the conscience a little lax. If I thought that was the result, I don't believe I would ever go to another auction. But what's the use of saying that? I am simply writing myself down a female Ananias, for while auctions fascinate, and I have either money or credit, I shall probably be sold by the auctioneer with the same courtesy that he sells the wonderful curios. I think we women rather like to be made fools of—it suggests that man has had to interfere—that nature did not cure this state of affairs to exist in the beginning. Well, there is safety just now for the collector. For when the springtime comes there are no important auction sales, and none of those fascinating circulars are delivered by the postman to lead where she should not go her who is addressed as H.A.B.

## SHELTERING ARMS HOSPITAL.

An Institution Which is Doing a Noble Work in Richmond.

The Times has received the following from the Executive Committee of the Sheltering Arms Hospital:

In the year 1889 Miss Rebekah Peterkin founded the Sheltering Arms Hospital. For some time previous to this she had been anxious to see a free hospital in this city, as her work among the poor persuaded her of the great need of such a charity. At that period there were no college hospitals, and besides the treatment for the sick there were only private sanitariums and the City Almshouse Hospital. To the latter place the self-respecting poor are much opposed. Several movements had been made at various times to establish a free hospital, but it was not until this benevolent and ardent soul established it. This she did in the midst of great difficulties. By her unflinching courage she sustained the faith of her assistants; but after two years she was called to a higher work and they accepted the legacy of the Sheltering Arms Hospital, sustained by her example.

Many discouragements and drawbacks beset them, but they have told on, till

new this hospital is the only one in the city entirely free to the needy poor. It is non-sectarian, and is without endowment—being entirely supported by its friends in Richmond and other parts of the State. The greater part of the money being raised here in this city.

Any physician in good standing in his profession, can practice here, but he will receive no fee. The physicians of Richmond give their services when called upon.

The Executive Committee feel anxious to bring this work before the public, as it does not seem to be understood by everyone. The main reason for bringing it up at this time is that the subject of the need for a city hospital has been recently open-

ed in one of the newspapers. It seems to the Executive Committee of the Sheltering Arms Hospital that Richmond is already well supplied with hospitals of every kind. Persons of means, in need of hospital treatment, have a large selection open to them. To the poor and needy, the Sheltering Arms opens its doors, and will do so as long as there is anything in the treasury. It was recently stated in one of the newspapers that a certain physician in Richmond had a patient in need of hospital treatment, but owing to his disability to practice at the college hospital, he had no place to which he could take this patient.

We would now state to him, and to all others in ignorance of the Sheltering Arms, that this hospital is entirely free to all who are persons in needy circumstances. It is well equipped, and the management under Miss Mary Gaul, superintendent, is entirely satisfactory to the physicians practicing there. It is hoped when this work is more thoroughly known and appreciated there will be no further thought of having another hospital in Richmond, but that all persons interested in a new movement will unite with us in perfecting the Sheltering Arms and supporting the same, whose object and intention has always been to be the free city hospital of Richmond.

By order of the Executive Committee:

President, Mrs. Francis D. Williams;

First Vice-President, Miss Frances Scott; Mrs. Wm. H. Tatum; Second Vice-President, Mrs. E. T. Robinson; Mrs. F. W. Scott; Third Vice-President, Mrs. L. B. Janney; Mrs. B. B. Valentine; Fourth Vice-President, Miss Mary Gilman; Miss Anna Boykin; Treasurer, Mrs. Geo. T. King; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. C. E. Smith.

## Classic Greece.

All eyes are now turned to the shores of ancient Hellas. Again is that storied clime, so beautifully described as "a country of promontories and gulfs and islands clustered in an azure sea; a country of wooded vales and purple mountains, wherein the cities are built on plains covered with olive woods, and at the base of an Acropolis crowned with a temple or a tower. And there are quarries of white marble, and there are green valleys where wild honey. And wherever you move is some fair and elegant memorial of the poetic past; a lone pillar on the silent, verdant plain, echoing with the triumphant shouts of sacred games, the tomb of a hero or the fane of a god. Clear is the bluest of skies, and fragrant the air, and at all times, comparatively to the east, the deepest sympathies of all lovers of liberty and Christianity throughout the civilized world. The present conflict upon the Thessalian plains, beneath the shadow of almost famed Olympus, is but a renewal of that strife which so deeply stirred the hearts of our forefathers in the early part of this century, when the Greeks rose against their Turkish oppressors, and after a gallant and desperate struggle, culminating at Missolonghi, threw off the Moslem yoke. Little did those who fought in that war, and like the patriot Marco Bozzaris, and the gifted English volunteer, Lord Byron, who gave their swords, their fortunes, and their lives for freedom and Greece, think that their sacrifices were, after the lapse of no short time, comparatively to be rendered as naught, and the independence of Greece to be again imperiled by the tramp of a Turkish horse sweeping down from the northern mountains into the peaceful Vale of Tempe, and towards that renowned pass where thousands of years ago, Leonidas, with his little band of Spartan heroes, withstood the Persian hosts. Can it be possible that Christian Europe will calmly allow the "unconquerable Turk," the slayer of unarmed Christians—to drench with the blood of modern Greeks, sacred Thermopylae? God forbid it! H. W. S.

At Berlin the popular theatre, Libre, founded in 1862, with a uniform price of admission of about 12 cents, has prospered in a most extraordinary way.

## HOW TO MAKE A BICYCLE SUIT

A Celebrated Man Tailor Gives Diagrams and Directions for the Latest.

## THE GARMENT IN FOUR PIECES.

Skirt, Bolero, Leggings and Tam Make Up the Most Recent "Sets."

Not Hard to Make at Home.

(Copyright, 1897, for The Times.)

PARIS, April 20.—If you start out to view the new bicycle suits you will find they are counted as being in four pieces. These are skirt jacket, leggings (counted as one), and cap. All the Paris suits come tied up in bunches of four each, and when you give an order for a cycle suit, you may be asked if you want a cap with the coat and jacket. The leggings are surely there.

There is always a question whether it is cheaper to purchase a bicycle suit outright or make it yourself. It is certainly cheaper to buy a ready-made suit than to purchase the materials and hire a dressmaker to put them together for you.

The cost of the goods and the hire of the dressmaker, unless she be of the exceptional kind, will more than offset the price of a ready-made suit and not have half the style; unless, of course, you are fortunate enough to know a modiste who works fast and does not overcharge.

## EASY TO MAKE.

But a bicycle suit is such a simple thing, so easily handled, that many a woman would like to make one herself if she knew how. She can always cut up a skirt, but that does not "fill the bill" in these days of saddle and divided skirts.

A certain very celebrated man tailor recently drew for me upon a slip of paper the outlines of a pattern for a bicycle suit. "Now," said he, "any woman who understands dressmaking can make a suit from this; and if she does not understand dressmaking she should not attempt to make a suit at all."

The skirt which he drew was of the kind that gives the effect of a round skirt when a woman is standing. It is, however, a "saddle" skirt and is planned to fall at each side of the wheel when she is seated.

"To make this," said he, "a woman of perhaps five feet, eight inches will require seven and a half yards of goods twenty-seven inches wide. This is for the skirt alone and will allow a skirt thirty-three inches long, or to the tops of the bicycle boots. Those who want a shorter or a longer skirt can make the necessary allowance."

"First, lay the cloth upon a cutting table, and cut out the big circular pieces with the loop scooped out, like the diagram.

"Cut two of these, one for each division. Now sew the front seams together (a-a), and bind them as they will be on the bias.

## FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.

"Fold the circular pieces from the centre of back (c-c), bringing the centre side seams (b-b) together. Cut the front gore, bringing the fold of cloth (a-a) to the front seam on the circular piece (a-a), sewing the side seams (b-b) in with the other front side seams, on the line marked (b-b) on circular piece.

"Now open on each side of the front gore with laps and buttons.

"There are two skirts, one for each leg. When they are being put together sew the loops together (d) and bind them. This diagram is only for one side of the skirt. There is the same upon each side. Much of it is invisible when the skirt is on. From a-c to a-c does not show, being folded inside when the skirt is worn.

"That is just the way the latest bicycle skirts are made," said he, "but I question whether a woman who has never made a dress could put one together. Her remedy would be to go to the dressmaker and she would do well to stick to the plain, round short skirt

ting together to give the tailor finish, and the fronts of the waist should be also decorated before sewing to the under arm seams. The diagram describes it precisely and is easily read. After it is done the bolero should be carefully pressed and made to look as "professional" in treatment as possible.

## THE LEGGINGS.

A bicycle legging needs broadcloth, or the strongest kind of serge. If the skirt is made of serge it is well to take a piece of the same cloth. Otherwise, either tan or black is used.

The legging is in five pieces. There is the inside piece, the two outside pieces and the two straps. These straps require the neatest treatment. It is best to make them of leather. A strip of tan leather can be cut from an old pair of shoes, or a narrow piece of any desired color be obtained from a shoemaker for ten cents.

It is not necessary to bind the straps. Many people prefer a cloth strap, and this can be lined with crinoline and stitched until it is strong.

Small buttons can be placed upon the leggings or the small shoe buttons used. The smallest and neatest of buttonholes must be made and a button-hook used in fastening the leggings. Nothing spoils buttonholes like buttoning with the fingers.

## THIS SPRING'S TAM.

The final step in the making of the bicycle suit is the Tam o'Shanter cap, which is the most stylish shape hat known for wheeling. It protects the face, is cool and has a certain "style" about it that makes it a favorite. The amount of material can easily be secured from the left-overs of the skirt.

The size of the Tam depends upon the personal tastes. Many like one that measures just twelve inches across. Others like a smaller Tam. If the cap when made, looks awkward, it is probably too large for the face, and should be trimmed down.

Make two circular pieces, the same size. They need not be exactly round, as a slight variation in the trim produces a pleasant tilt. Line the pieces with crinoline, and face with satin on the inside. Cut from the under piece a circle as large as the crown of the head.

Now take a strip of tweed, or cloth of any kind, satin if you prefer it, and finish it all around as neatly as though for a belt. Bind the edges of the Tam with black braid, and with the same binding fasten the cap band to the top of the Tam. As you sew, you will suddenly find the Tam shaping itself, and by the time you have finished you will see before you a very pretty hat.

Buy two stiff plumes and stand them on one side with a small knot of black satin ribbon to hide the ends.

The cap and the bolero can be managed by any one at all. And the leggings by any neat sewer who understands the importance of a close finish and a hot iron for pressing. Three pressings are not too much to give the leggings when they are done.

The bicycle skirt can be trimmed with tiny rows of braid, or it can have some of the heavy braiding that matches the bolero. That is wholly a matter of personal taste.

A suit like this should not cost over \$5 complete, counting the plums upon the hat. But if there are pieces of old material in the house, or an old jacket that can be cut down for a bolero, as is generally done, it will be much less.

The bicycle skirt is faced, but not lined; and the bolero has no lining except in the upper part of the sleeves, where a little stiffening is put in.

Many persons stitch a bicycle suit with linen thread instead of silk, as they think it holds better in rough usage. But that, too, is a matter of taste.

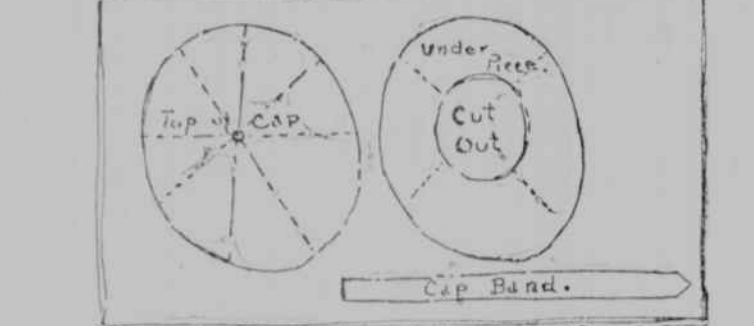
The very newest color for a bicycle suit is a mixed goods of tan touched with green and yellow, a "Scotch pepper and salt" combination, and next to that comes the army of blues.

It is claimed that a home-made bicycle suit, if successful, is extremely so, and much better than any other.

## ADELINE RIVERS.

## Steel Freight Cars.

A Pittsburgh paper notes a \$50,000 order to a manufacturing company near that city for steel freight cars. The same paper prophesies that steel will supplant wood altogether in the manufacture of



## "THE SIZE OF THE TAM DEPENDS ON ONE'S TASTE."

the time when we had that little unpleasantness with England, who can doubt that the bright hue of the English soldiers' coats—as seen from their backs—inspired each American to greater deeds? Then, too, at this time every lady of importance, who regularly attended the fashionable assemblies in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Richmond, would have counted her wardrobe as a very poor one unless there had been in it a red brocade, satin or taffeta ball gown. So much for red.

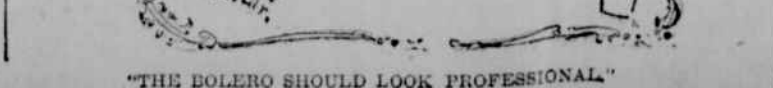
## BAH AS A COLOR EXPERT.

Now, what effect does blue have on you? The dark blue is depressing; it suggests domesticity, economy, but none of the pleasures of life. As a contrast to it, take light blue and without following a line of thought, you think of the cold skies, of the robes worn by angels, but you are unconsciously chilled. That pale, heavenly blue is too holy for us, who are essentially of the earth earthy. Yellow, that wonderfully pure shade, has no divisibility; easily enough, unless it is combined with something else. Put a yellow frock on a beautiful woman and a ray may suggest sunshine, but she never brings to your mind a strong personality. Put a black and yellow frock on a woman who knows how to wear it, and with this knowledge she can laugh at beauty, for as she moves around, and you see first the bright yellow, then the dead black (this is most effective in stripes), the individual woman stands out as a attractive, interesting, subtle, a little mysterious, and distinctly refined. Put white and yellow on a young woman and she looks like a Dresden statuettes; she suggests to you happiness and gaiety; but you are conscious that, as yet, her soul is sleeping.

## THE VARIOUS TINTS.

Now think of the color of which it is said that there are seventy-five distinct tints—purple. The faint violet, lavender, heliotrope, call the delicate tone what you will, is the color of emotions and of experience, and the longer you look at it, even if it is only in the form of a bunch of violets, the more certain you become that it is not adapted to the young girl, but to the young matron, or best of all—the widow. The veritable royal purple assures you that it has a will of its own; it controls. And it makes the elderly matron who wears it assume a stately air, hold her head a little higher, and causes her to think of herself as a woman of importance. There is another shade of purple that was affected years ago by the Greek hetære—it is that tone which seems splashed with red until it is neither purple nor red but a mingling of both, resulting in a color that tells of wickedness, of power, of gaiety, of sorrow, and of everything that seems contradictory. Green, the color of hope, should, in its light tints, be worn by a happy woman. Whenever she looks at it it whispers of something better that is coming; but green in its dull, dingy hue belongs to a woman who thinks little, who economizes much, and who is rather desolate.

Pink is the color dedicated to the happy young girl; it is really couleur de rose. It means ignorant innocence; it means



## "THE BOLERO SHOULD LOOK PROFESSIONAL."



## "THE LEGGINGS REQUIRE NEATNESS."

until she can manage a pattern by herself.

This skirt has been made by so many people, however, that it might as well be attempted by any one who has the patience to fuss. It requires "knack" and a little ripping out if the first attempt should prove wrong. The pattern is right and only needs putting together correctly.

A bicycle bolero is a very easy thing to make. It takes much less cloth than the skirt, and is generally made of strong lady's cloth, or serge or broadcloth.

Three or four yards is ample with ordinary width goods. So much depends upon the size of the person that it is best to notice the amount required for an ordinary waist and take one-third less material.

The sleeves are trimmed before put-

freight cars; that the life of an ordinary wooden car is about ten years, while it is in England. Yet, strange to say, Brahms himself held our nation as a musical people in undisputed contempt. He persistently refused all suggestions to visit a land where he would have been accorded a most cordial reception.—London News.